

**Wege  
Foundation**

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Via Telefax

August 8, 2006

The Honorable Vernon Ehlers  
1714 Longworth House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Vern:

I recently wrote to former President Ford informing him about the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition and your leadership role in the Congress on Great Lakes restoration. I thought you would enjoy seeing the President's response, which I've enclosed, especially his very kind words about you. Please feel free to share this letter with your colleagues and others working on this important project.

Thanks, again, for your outstanding leadership in working to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

Sincerely yours,

Peter M. Wege,

Encl: Letter from President Gerald R. Ford



GERALD R. FORD

July 26, 2006

Dear Peter:

Thank you for your letter updating me on the pending initiative to restore the Great Lakes and on the "Healing Our Waters Coalition" you founded. I appreciate the leadership you and the Wege Foundation are providing on this critically important issue.

Like you, with our shared roots in West Michigan, I understand the national and international importance of the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes sustain the economies of eight states, provide drinking water for millions of people, are a wonderful recreational resource and, of course, are renowned for their natural beauty. The Great Lakes have enriched my life as they have so many others and I share your commitment to restoring and protecting them for our children's and grandchildren's future.

I also share your vision that restoring the Great Lakes must be a collaborative effort between governments at all levels, businesses, and citizen's groups. And I'm pleased to learn that another long-time friend from West Michigan, Vern Ehlers, is leading efforts in Congress to bring needed federal attention and resources to this cause. It's a great team you've helped assemble to restore the Great Lakes. Please convey to all of them my thanks and my best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerald R. Ford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter M. Wege  
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